

U. S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

June 3, 1930.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES.

Colonel Albright, Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Branch 1917, called in person to ascertain the present whereabouts of H. O. Yardley, formerly an employee of the War Department who, Colonel Albright stated, was threatening to make public certain confidential secrets of the War Department. Colonel Albright stated that he understood that on March 28, 1930, Mr. Yardley had called at the Washington Gas Light Company to have a gas meter installed and that he, Colonel Albright, was desirous of obtaining the address furnished to the Gas Company by Mr. Yardley.

The Washington field office was instructed to obtain this information and to communicate it direct to Colonel Albright. I was later advised that this had been done.

Y. E. 24.  
Director.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/pjms

Army information remains  
unclassified & is releasable per  
let from Dept of Army dtd 4/26/86  
SP7mac/pjms  
10/8/86

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 4 1930

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 3 1930 P. M.  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JEH:40'B

September 10, 1932.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

62 - N

✓  
Mr. Castle, of the State Department, called and stated he understood Mr. Yardley is about to publish another book which will contain a great deal more about these telegrams Japanese telegrams - and that sort of thing. Mr. Castle said it will be most unfortunate. Mr. Castle understands Mr. Yardley is working with a couple of good lawyers who are advising him in the matter in order to avoid a libel suit, but that the War Department has advised him that Mr. Yardley has in his personal files duplicates of a lot of original War Department material and also has a great deal of original War Department material which should be in the index of the War Department itself.

I advised Mr. Castle that I was under the impression that there was a Statute which prohibited the use of Government material for private purposes and that I thought Congress just recently passed, or at least had under consideration, an extension of the previous Statute. I told Mr. Castle we would look up the Statute on this matter.

Mr. Castle said he thought the Military Intelligence of the War Department would know about the War Department material but he will advise us of this later.

Very truly yours, ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Director.

DATE 8/27/85 BY *James J. [illegible]*

*Army info, remains  
unclassified, is releasable  
per Army G.I. 2/26/86  
SPT/mtg/pe  
10/8/86*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

SEP. 10 1932

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

U. S. Bureau of Investigation  
HN:DSS  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

September 19, 1932.

SEP 19 1932

62-27581

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. Smith, of the New York Times, called me at my residence Saturday evening, about 7:00 P. M., and wanted to know what truth there was in a report they had received that "Department of Justice Agents", in conjunction with the War Department, had made a demand on one Yardley both in Illinois and in New York for information which he said Yardley had procured from the War Department files. I told him I knew absolutely nothing about any matter of that kind. I suggested he talk to Mr. Carusi or Mr. Dodds; that if Mr. Carusi knew nothing of any communications on the part of the Attorney General, I suggested he talk to Mr. Dodds.

Very truly yours,

H. Nathan.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP4mmc/lpm

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

SEP 21 1932

62-27581-2	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 20 1932 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. One	FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

U. S. Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

VH:CGH

September 19, 1932.

SEP 19 1932 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

62-23582  
27581

On September 10, 1932, I conferred with Mr. Dodds concerning the call which you had received from Mr. Castle of the State Department to the effect that Mr. Yardley was about to publish another book which would contain a great deal of confidential information which Mr. Yardley had apparently obtained from the War Department files. Mr. Dodds was first under the impression that it would be difficult to deal with a situation of this sort, but together with Mr. Parrish we made a careful search through the Statutes and ascertained that Section 31 of Title 50, U. S. Code, one of the few remaining sections of the original Espionage Act, is apparently directly in point, particularly paragraphs B and D of said section, which makes it unlawful to publish any information of this character which has been obtained in any manner which would work injury to the United States. Mr. Dodds called Mr. Castle on the telephone. He did not at this time talk with Mr. Castle, but later informed me that Mr. Castle had called him back when he had informed him of his opinion that Section 31 of Title 50 would be applicable, and that either the State Department or the War Department, whichever was the more interested, should make a formal demand upon Mr. Yardley or upon the publishers of his new book for the withholding of the information, and also warn both Mr. Yardley and the publishers that if they did publish this information they would be prosecuted under this section of the Code. Mr. Castle stated that he would immediately notify the War Department, as it was the one primarily interested. The matter was closed at this juncture.

I advised you orally of the above, but in the rush of work on the bonus marchers neglected to prepare a memorandum at that time.

Respectfully,

V. W. Hughes.

62-27581-3	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 20 1932 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	W

REPRODUCTION CONTAINED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

ALL 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/pen  
army info. remains unclassified  
and is releasable per Army  
dtd 8/26/86 SP7mac/pen  
10/8/86

# CODE EXPERT'S MS. ON JAPAN IS SEIZED

*W. H. 2771*  
Federal Men Impound Work by  
H. O. Yardley, Wartime Head  
of Cryptographic Bureau.

## GRAND JURY GETS CASE

Author is Accused of Taking  
Secret Diplomatic Documents  
When He Left Service.

The manuscript of a new book by Herbert O. Yardley, author of "The American Black Chamber" and head of the secret American Cryptographic Bureau during the World War, was seized here yesterday and impounded by the Department of Justice under Section 32, Title 50, of the United States Code, which prohibits agents of the government from appropriating secret documents.

The manuscript, entitled "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets," is said to deal, like "The American Black Chamber" published two years ago, with the intercepting and decoding of instructions sent to delegates at the Washington Arms Conference in 1922. It is said also to disclose that the Japanese delegation was instructed to "hold out" for a certain limited time, and if, at the end of that time, the British and American delegations showed no signs of yielding, to "give in." Thus, the book is said to assert, the American delegates were able to anticipate the action of the Japanese delegation.

A short time ago Mr. Yardley submitted the manuscript to the Macmillan Company for approval. Yesterday a United States Marshal called at the offices of the publishing firm, advised George P. Brett Jr. that he was wanted at the Federal Building, and told him to take the manuscript of "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets" with him.

About the same time a marshal appeared at the offices of George T. Bye, Yardley's literary agent, at 535 Fifth Avenue. Mr. Bye was not there, so the marshal left a telephone number with instructions that Mr. Bye call it as soon as he returned. When Mr. Bye did so he, too, was told to appear at the Federal Building.

There he found Mr. Brett and learned that the manuscript had been seized. Mr. Brett said he had been taken from the Federal Building.

NEW YORK TIMES  
2/21/33

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7MAC/SPW

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

JEN:AO'B

February 21, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

Mr. Fay advised me today that Mr. Wedemar, a newspaper man of New York City, had made inquiry concerning the alleged visit of Special Agent in Charge Connelley to United States Attorney Medalie and the fact that Mr. Medalie has stated if the book which Mr. Yardley is preparing is published war between the United States and Japan would result. Mr. Wedemar wondered if there was any connection between Mr. Connelley's visit and M. Medalie's statement.

Very truly yours,

Director.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/65 BY SP7-mac/epw

2-27-33

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

62-27581-4	
FEB 23 1933	
MAIL ROOM	
FILE	

# STATE SECRET DECODED

FEARS OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES  
MS. SEIZED

## JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC MESSAGES

Fears that a British publisher may be offered a book about Japanese secret diplomacy to prevent the publication of which a Bill was recently rushed through the United States Congress are now being expressed in official circles in Washington. This book by Mr. Herbert O. Yardley who was head of the secret decoding unit of the United States Government until 1929 is believed to be an extension of the revelations contained in his "The American Black Chamber" and to deal exclusively with messages from the Japanese Government to its Washington Embassy. These messages were intercepted and decoded by Mr. Yardley's office between 1918 and 1929 when Mr. Henry L. Stimson then US Secretary of State disbanded the secret decoding bureau as unworthy of the Government and contrary to good ethics.

I was anxious about the result of the publication of such a book that led the present United States Government to rush a drastic and mysterious Bill through Congress recently.

This Bill which was introduced suddenly into the US House of Representatives with the bare statement that its immediate enactment was demanded by the safety and interest of the United States provides that the publication of secrets considered inimical to State interests should be punishable by a fine of 10,000 dollars (£2,000 at par) ten years imprisonment or both.

Mr. Yardley's book the publication of which the Bill was designed to prevent was considered dangerous to the already strained relations between the United States and Japan.

It is now admitted however that this so-called Gag Bill which has been regarded by some Congressmen as a menace to the freedom of the Press has no power beyond United States boundaries and the book might therefore be offered to British or other overseas publishers.

### PREVENTING PUBLICATION

Then the only hope of preventing publication would be by a request from the United States Government through ordinary diplomatic channels.

Mr. Yardley's "The American Black Chamber" published two years ago, did much towards accentuating the differences between the United States and Japan. It states the Washington correspondent of the British United Press.

It revealed that during the Washington Arms Conference Mr. Charles Evan Hughes then Secretary of State was daily given by Mr. Yardley's office decoded copies of intercepted messages of instruction from Tokyo to the Japanese delegation and therefore knew in advance what the tactics of the Japanese would be.

The book led to bitter recriminations against the United States in Japan, and made Mr. Yardley famous in the United States.

When Mr. Stimson found out about the work of Mr. Yardley's bureau after he came to office as Secretary of State he ordered the cessation of the activities of the secret decoding experts.

Anxiety was shown by the authorities when it was known that Mr. Yardley had another book on the way and when he replied to protests by saying that he considered it his patriotic duty to show what important work Mr. Stimson had stopped because of mere naive idealism the only course left for the Government was to rush through a Bill on the lines of the British Official Secrets Act.

This was done only after legal action had failed.

The manuscript of Mr. Yardley's impending book had been seized by the District Attorney in New York City and he and his literary agent were secretly brought before a Federal Grand Jury but when the two men took a firm stand it was found that there were no laws under which either Mr. Yardley or his manuscript could be held. Mr. Yardley maintained that it was his patriotic duty to reveal the technique of Japanese methods in the United States.

During the war Mr. Yardley and his staff were engaged in decoding secret enemy messages and their work was continued afterwards for the decoding of diplomatic messages.

The decoding bureau was in an office building in New York. On the door was the title "Code Compiling Company" presumably a business organisation preparing codes for commercial firms. In fact Mr. Yardley and some of his staff in the front offices of his suite actually did business in selling commercial codes while he was also a licensed estate agent.

These activities however were merely a screen for the secret Government decoding work.

NOT RECORDED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY 8074mm/40

62-225-1-48  
INDEXED

W. J. Yardley

62-27581-5

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 22 1933

RECORDED & INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

933

Dear Sir,

MAY 22 1933 I wish to get in touch with Mr. Yardley, the former State Department man who wrote "The American Black Chamber", and have been advised you could give me his mail address.

This matter may develop into something of interest to all concerned so I would greatly appreciate it if you would use the enclosed self-addressed envelope and give me this address.

Thanking you for this favor,

Sincerely,

H. L. Hoff

Temporarily in Salinas - home address

Ans 5/20/33



After            days, return to

*Box 4*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE *4/27/85* BY *SP7 mac/apm*

*Department of Justice,  
Bureau of Criminal Intelligence,*

*Attention Mr. Hoover,  
Director.*

*Washington,  
D.C.*



JLH:CSH  
62-27581-5

May 20, 1933

RECORDED

Mr. H. L. Taff,  
Box #4,  
San Luis Obispo, California.

Dear Sir:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/pjm

I have received your letter of May 12, 1933, and in response thereto am obliged to advise you that Mr. Herbert J. Yardley, of whom you inquire, has never been connected with this Bureau, and there is no information concerning his address in our files. Inasmuch as Mr. Yardley was formerly connected with the State Department, perhaps some information may be forthcoming from that source.

The self-addressed stamped envelope which you enclosed with your letter is being returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enclosure #61626.

JBL:GJ

April 12, 1934.

Lieutenant Colonel C. K. Nulsen,  
Executive Officer, General Staff,  
Military Intelligence Division,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

APR 17 1934

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/ps  
army info remains unclassified per  
let from Army dtd 8/26/86 SP7mac/psm  
10/8/86

Dear Sir:

With reference to telephonic inquiry made by Major  
Paschal of your Division of Mr. Little of this Division on  
April 6, 1934, please be advised that copies of the advertise-  
ment, relating to the publication of "The Blonde Countess" by  
Herbert O. Yardley, have been referred to the Criminal Division  
of the Department for consideration and advice whether investi-  
gation is desired in connection therewith concerning the  
publication of confidential material.

Very truly yours,

George H. ROBERTS

Director.

APR 14 1934

JBL:GJ

April 12, 1934.

62-27571-6  
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KEENAN.

There are transmitted herewith two photographs representing an advertisement for a book published by Herbert O. Yardley entitled "The Blonds Countess". It will be noted that instructions appear at the top of this advertisement to dip the sheet in water. The photograph containing all black characters represents the sheet before being dipped in water and the photograph bearing the white letters, in addition to the black, represents the result of so treating the paper.

This matter was referred to this Division by the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, particular attention being called to the fact that the material used by Yardley was obtained, confidentially, during his employment by the Government with the "American Black Chamber". Major Paschal of the Military Intelligence Division states that this book was published on April 4, 1934 by Longmans, Green and Company of New York City, and that a violation of E. E. 4420, 73rd Congress, First Session, prevails in connection with the publishing of confidential material. Major Paschal advised that, it was his recollection, manuscripts, used in the preparation of this book, were seized by the Department of Justice. No record concerning this seizure appears in the files of this Division.

I shall appreciate being advised whether any investigation, on the part of this Division, is desired in connection with the information furnished by the Military Intelligence, relative to the publication of Yardley's book.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. #685520

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-27-85 BY SP7mac/rp

Army info. remains unclassified per  
army let. dtd 8/26/86  
SP7mac/rp 10/15/86

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Room 420.

1934.

To:

Director  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Renneberger  
Miss Gandy  
Mrs. Kelley  
Miss Beahm  
Miss Sheaffer  
Chief, Unit  
Files Section  
Supervisor  
Supervisor, Steno. Pool.  
Mr. [unclear]

*Please See*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-27-85 BY 97-mac/ym

NO. 100-100000

62-17581

W. H. D. Lester.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

JBL:RCL

## Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

April 7, 1934.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7 mac/jan

army info remains unclassified  
per let. from Army dated 9/26/86  
SP7 mac/jan  
10/8/86

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NATHAN.

On April 6, 1934, I received a telephone call from Major Paschal of the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department.

Major Paschal states that about a month ago an advertisement of a book to be published by Yardley was forwarded to the Division. This advertisement indicated that Yardley was contemplating incorporating in this book information obtained, confidentially, during his employment by the Government with the "American Black Chamber". Major Paschal desires to be advised what action is being taken by the Division in connection therewith.

The File Room has no record of a communication being received from the Military Intelligence concerning this matter and I called this to the attention of Major Paschal. He stated that the advertisement was not transmitted by letter, but merely by a roughhand note. There were instructions upon the sheet to dip it in water and when this was done printing was disclosed concerning something about gags imposed by Congress. Instructions on the circular stated, "Be sure your Congressman is in town. Then dip this sheet in water." The advertisement indicated that Yardley was the only man prevented from publishing a book by act of Congress. Major Paschal understands that this book was published April 4, 1934 by Longman's and believes it to be a violation of H. R. 4420, 73rd Congress, First Session. He understands that the Department of Justice seized manuscripts in connection with the preparation of this book.

I communicated with Mr. Appel, who stated that the advertisement was received by the Technical Laboratory without any cover whatever and he is having photostatic copies prepared in order to submit the matter to the Criminal Division for consideration.

Respectfully,

John B. Little

Refer to Mr. Keenan  
APR 17 1934

62-27321-6  
APR 16 1934

100-100000  
100-100000  
100-100000

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
From. UNIT #1 Room 420  
1934.

To. ☒ Director  
☐ Mr. Nathan  
☐ Mr. Tolson  
☐ Mr. Edwards  
☐ Unit Two  
☐ Unit Four  
☐ Files Section  
☐ Personnel Files Section  
☐ Equipment Section  
☐ Chief Clerk's Office  
☐ Unit Five  
☐ Identification Unit  
☐ Statistical Section  
☐ Technical Laboratory  
☐ Mr. Baughman  
☐ Mr. Cowley  
☐ Mr. Little  
☐ Mr. Lowdon  
☐ Mr. Newby  
☐ Mr. Smith  
☐ Mr. Stapleton  
☐ Miss Gandy  
☐ Miss Finnell  
☐ Washington Field Office  
☐ Stenographic Pool  
☐ Secretary  
☐ Correct  
☐ Re-write  
☐ Re-date  
☐ See Me  
☐ Send file.

*SK* *Mr. Little*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/10/00 BY 1000

# DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

From Laboratory and  
Single Fingerprint Unit

4/11

1934.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/31/15 BY SP7 mac/asm

Director  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Appel  
Mr. Hince  
Mr. Pickering  
Mr. Renneberger  
Mr. Schilder  
Chief, Unit 1  
Chief Clerk  
Files  
Stenographer  
Mr. Little

Lyons?

f

f



Be sure your Congressman's in Washington--  
Then dip this sheet in water



**GAGGED BY  
ACT OF CONGRESS**

*The Blonde Countess*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP4MAC/pep

COPIES DESTROYED  
AUG 13 1964

THE  
ONLY AUTHOR  
EVER

Resorts to fiction in this novel about  
The American Black Chamber

By Major Herbert O. Yardley  
Published by Longmans, Green & Co.  
114 Fifth Avenue New York

JBL:IAM

April 24, 1984

**MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KERRIAN**

Attention is invited to my memorandum dated April 12, 1984, requesting to be advised whether investigation is desired in connection with the publication of "The Blonde Countess" by Herbert O. Yardley, the matter having been referred from the Military Intelligence, as warranting investigation, due to the fact that confidential information is incorporated in this book.

Very truly yours,

Director.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/07/85 BY SP7mac/pea  
Info from Army remains unclassified  
+ is releasable per Army let dated 8/26/86  
SP7mac/rpno  
10/8/86

RECORDS

62-27581-7

24 1984

VER jhl-eg  
62-27581 - 7

April 26, 1934.

Brigadier General Alfred T. Smith, Chief,  
Military Intelligence Division,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-27-85 BY SP7 mac/rav  
info from Army remains unclassified  
as releasable for use from Army 10/8/86

Dear Sir:

Major Paschal of your Division recently referred a copy of the advertisement of "The Blonde Countess" by Major Herbert O. Yardley, to this Division for consideration in view of the fact that it is reported that Yardley incorporated in his book certain information obtained confidentially during his employ in the "American Black Chamber".

The matter was referred to Assistant Attorney General Keenan for consideration and I am attaching hereto a copy of Mr. Keenan's reply dated April 17, 1934. I shall appreciate receiving a response from you in accordance with the suggestion contained in the last paragraph of Mr. Keenan's memorandum.

Very truly yours,

Edgar Hoover

Director.

Incl. 785533.

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FMP-muh

JBK *JBK*

April 17th., 1934.

*Bergman*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION.

I have your memorandum of the 12th instant, transmitting two photographs representing the advertisement for a book published by Herbert O. Yardley, entitled "The Blonde Countess". The matter was referred to your Division by the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, particular attention being called to the fact that the material used by Yardley was obtained confidentially during his employment by the Government with the "American Black Chamber". Major Paschal of the L. I. D. states that this book was published on April 4, 1934 by Longmans, Green & Company of New York, and that the publication constitutes a violation of the Act of June 10, 1933, Public No. 37, 73rd Congress, H.R. 4220. You request to be advised whether any investigation should be made by your Division.

The Act of June 10, 1933 provides in substance that whoever, by virtue of his employment by the United States, shall obtain from another or shall have custody of or access to, or shall have had custody of or access to any official diplomatic code, or any matter prepared in any such code, or which purports to have been prepared in any such code, and shall wilfully, without authorization or competent authority, publish or furnish to another any such code or matter, shall be fined or imprisoned as provided.

It is obvious that it is impossible to determine whether there may have been a violation of such statute on the basis of the information furnished the Department. I suggest that you request Major Paschal to have the Secretary of War submit to this Department a statement of facts now available indicating the circumstances of Major Yardley's appointment or employment by the United States and a copy of the book "The Blonde Countess" with the portions thereof which it is thought violate the statute marked insofar as possible. We shall then be in a better position to determine whether an investigation is warranted.

RECORDED

*Joseph B. Keenan*  
JOSEPH B. KEENAN,

Assistant Attorney General.

390 451

ED

APR 27 1934

47-988-6467

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

JBL:CSH

April 26, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN

On April 25, 1934 Major Paschal of the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, called at my office and left the two attached newspaper clippings from unidentified Pennsylvania newspapers relating to the book entitled "The Blonde Countess", by Herbert O. Yardley.

Copies of these articles are being submitted to the Criminal Division, inasmuch as a previous complaint made by the Military Intelligence concerning this book was referred there also.

Respectfully,

*John B. Little*  
John B. Little.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-27-85 BY SP7 mac/ram  
Re: to war dept is unclassified per letter  
from army dtd 9-26-86 SP7 mac/ram  
10-15-86

RECORDED

INDEXED

APR 27 1934

APR 26 1934

From a Pennsylvania newspaper - name unknown

Received from Major Raschal  
on April 25, 1934

**A Credible Spy Novel**  
THE BLONDE COUNTESS. By Herbert  
F. Yardley. Longmans, Green. \$2.  
This is a novel of wartime in-  
trigue in Washington, and dis-  
tinguished in that it is considerably  
more credible than those novels of  
the Oppenheim school of inter-  
national skulduggery.  
Major Yardley, author of "The  
American Black Chamber," has used  
all his knowledge of spies and spy  
detection to make the story excit-  
ing, and he has a smooth way of  
writing which makes a book of this  
kind easier to read.  
The blonde Countess, as you  
probably have guessed, is a German  
spy—indeed is the J37 who is keep-  
ing the Secretary of War and a'l  
his staff in a dither. She is ob-  
taining information which imperils  
American troopships. How she is  
captured—with secret-link detectors,  
codes, wireless and all the other  
aids to espionage and counter-  
espionage—makes a more thrilling  
story than a mere catalogue of the  
events would show. R E S.

An interesting  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer  
Herbert F. Yardley  
ing of codes and  
was of great value  
His staff, the blonde  
thrilling spy drama  
duced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer  
be sure that the  
vice angles for  
the Major with  
Sullivan in writing  
of his story.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/rpn  
Army info at top of page remains unclassified  
& is releasable per let from Army 9/24/86  
SP7mac/rpn  
10/8/86

COPY

A CREDIBLE SPY NOVEL

The Blonde Countess.

By Herbert O. Yardley. Longmans, Green. \$2.

There is a novel of wartime intrigue in Washington, and distinguished in that it is considerably more credible than those novels of the Oppenheim school of international skullduggery.

Major Yardley, author of "The American Black Chamber," has used all his knowledge of spies and spy detection to make the story exciting, and he has a smooth way of writing which makes a book of this kind easier to read.

The blonde Countess, as you probably have guessed, is a German spy — indeed is the J37 who is keeping the Secretary of War and all his staff in a dither. She is obtaining information which imperils American troopships. How she is captured—with secret-ink detectors, codes, wireless and all the other aids to espionage and counter-espionage — makes a more thrilling story than a mere catalogue of the events would show.

\* \* \* \* \*

An interesting personality on the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer lot is Major Herbert P. Yardley, whose deciphering of codes during the World War was of great value to the U. S. A. His story, "The Blonde Countess", a thrilling spy drama, will be produced by Larry Weingarter for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and, just to be sure that none of the secret service angles are incorrectly presented, the Major will assist C. Gardner Sullivan in writing the adaptation of his story.

\* \* \* \* \*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/afp  
Info. from Army remains unclassified & is  
releasable per Let. from Army dtd 8/26/86



JEL:CSH

April 27, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KEENAN

Attention: Mr. Carrish

With reference to "The Blonde Countess", by Herbert O. Yardley, which is the subject of a complaint made by the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, there are transmitted herewith copies of two newspaper articles appearing in an unidentified Pennsylvania paper, which were submitted to this Division by Major Paschal of the Military Intelligence Division.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enclosure 554191.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/plan

Reference to army claims unclassified  
per let from army dat 8/36/86

SP7mac/plan  
10/8/86

RECORDED

62-77581-10

JBL:CSH

62-27581-11

May 5, 1934

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KEENAN

With reference to "The Blonde Countess" by Herbert O. Yardley and the complaint made by the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, with reference thereto, there is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter received from Brigadier General Alfred T. Smith of the Military Intelligence Division, dated April 27, 1934.

In view of the information contained in the letter of General Smith, this Division is considering the matter closed unless advised to the contrary by you.

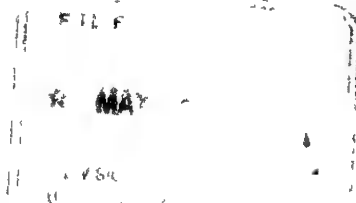
Very truly yours,

Director.

Enclosure 551003.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/rpm  
Reference to War Dept remains unclassified  
per let from Army dated 8-26-86  
SP7mac/rpm  
10/15/86



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

July 6, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

During telephone conversation, Mr. Fay stated that while he was talking with Miss [redacted], who is now the Fiction Editor for the Sunday Herald Tribune, she stated that she had turned down the story on Intrigue, involving Japan, which was submitted to her by Yardley some time ago. Mr. Fay indicated that he had called you relative to this several months ago.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
W. A. Tamm.

INFORMATION CONTAINED

IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SPYmac/jfm

JUL 11 1934

62-111-12	
JUL 17 1934	
RECORDED	INDEXED

Be sure ur Congressman's in Washington  
Then dip this sheet in water



**GAGGED BY  
ACT OF CONGRESS**

*The Blonde Countess*

ALL INFORMATION  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

THE  
ONLY AUTHOR  
EVER

Resorts to fiction in this novel about  
The American Black Chamber

By Major Herbert O. Yardley  
Published by Longmans, Green & Co.  
114 Fifth Avenue New York

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 14, 1935.

CT:MC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP-1 MAC/SP-1

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Colonel Lincoln telephoned on Tuesday morning, stating that he had received a clipping from the New York Times which indicates that the "American Black Chamber" is to be put on in the movies by the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Corporation. Colonel Lincoln wondered whether the Department of Justice could take any action in this matter. He referred to the fact that a law was passed concerning the use of governmental information subsequent to the publication of this book and as a result of its publication. He did not know whether the fact that the law was passed after publication of the book would make it a violation to use the contents of the book for motion picture purposes.

I told Colonel Lincoln that I did not know what the situation would be in this regard, but that I would be glad to have it looked into. He stated he would send to the Bureau the New York Times clipping in order that we might read the statements concerning the forthcoming motion picture.

Respectfully,

Clyde Tolson.

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAY 17 1935

WHDL;DD

RECORDED 62-2181-14

May 21, 1935.

Brigadier General H. E. Knight,  
General Staff,  
Military Intelligence Division,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

8/27/85 BY SP7UMAS/SPM

My dear General:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 14, 1935, in which you called my attention to the production of a proposed motion picture contemplated by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer based on the book entitled "The American Black Chamber" by Yardley.

I have read with extreme interest the clipping from the New York Times, which you enclosed with your letter, and wish to thank you for your courtesy and thoughtfulness in making this information available to me.

I have also noted with interest that you have brought this matter to the attention of Honorable Wilbur J. Carr, Assistant Secretary of State.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

*Done 4/4/35*

100-2181-14

HH  
100-2181-14

62-27581-14



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

EPC:AF

January 28, 1941

FOI PA # 257027

Declassify on: OADR 5/27/85

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12356

DATE 8/27/85

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: Herbert Osborn Yardley

I heard a rumor that Yardley was back in Washington and furthermore that he had been employed by the State Department to reopen the Black Chamber. I asked Mr. Rosen to make discreet inquiry of Fletcher Warren and Warren stated there was nothing to it.

Subsequently, I was talking with Colonel Atkins of the Army Signal Corps on another matter. I asked him. He stated in the highest confidence that it was true and that Yardley was back in Washington and that he has been hired under a very secret Government contract to do special work involving several of the government departments. He stated that he wanted it understood that although the War Department was interested they were not employing him as a War Department employee. He again asked that the information be treated in the highest confidence. [S-7] 194

Mr. Rosen subsequently told me that Warren called back and stated his first information was erroneous and that he now understood Yardley was back in the city but that definitely the State Department has not reopened the Black Chamber.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey.  
E. P. Coffey.

Jan 10/15/86

SP1 Mac/Amc  
Ret. let from Army. dtd 8-26-86

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEB 3 1941

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

E.Y.:EN

February 12, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMI

Attached hereto is a blind memorandum containing pertinent data appearing in the files of the Bureau concerning Herbert O. Yardley, author and former State Department cryptographer. O

Respectfully,

*E. W. Youngs*

E. W. Youngs

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7 mac/pev

RECORDED

6-22-1-16	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
1	U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*[Signature]*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 11, 1941

MEMORANDUM

RE: HERBERT OSBORN YARDLEY

Classified by SP9 mac/10  
classify on: OADR 8/17/15

Herbert Osborn Yardley was born in Worthington, Indiana, on April 13, 1889, the son of Robert Kirkbride Yardley and Emma Osborn. He was educated in the public schools of Worthington, Indiana, and in 1914 married Miss Hazel Milam of Worthington, Indiana. To this union was born a son named [REDACTED]. His present address is listed as Worthington, Indiana, and his residence in New York City is unknown, although his New York telephone number is reportedly Pennsylvania 6-5480.

b6  
b7C

According to data contained in "Who's Who in America," Yardley entered the service of the United States Department of State in 1912. With this service he devised a new diplomatic cipher code for the Department of State in 1914. From 1919 to 1929, he was in charge of the Cryptographic Department, ( the so-called Black Chamber ). He was also described as a lecturer in the cause of world peace. He served in the War College of the United States Army as Captain of the Signal Corps in 1917, and became a Major in 1918. He also served with the Chief of the Military Intelligence No. 8 from 1917 to 1918, and allegedly was on the Military Observers Staff with General Perishing in August 1918. According to this same source, Yardley was in charge of Military Intelligence at the Peace Conference in December 1918. In 1919, he was honorably discharged from military service and received the Distinguished Service medal in that same year.

As an author, Yardley has published the following books: "The American Black Chamber" in 1931; "The Blonde Countess" in 1934; "Red Sun of Nippon" in 1934.

RECORDED

27581-16

In 1931 Yardley published his first book entitled, "The American Black Chamber." This book published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, is a narrative history of the development of the State Department and Military Intelligence code cryptographic bureaus. In only a partial way are methods of deciphering codes referred to in this book, however some of the most famous war ciphers are given.

370451  
CLASSIFIED BY 60470LSB/GR  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X  
2/18-98

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In this publication are contained the author's comments concerning what was described as being a "bad situation in connection with cryptographic work in various departments of the Government during the World War."

Information was received to the effect that Yardley in 1932 contemplated the publication of another book which was to contain a substantial amount of information concerning Japanese telegrams containing diplomatic secrets sent to Japanese delegates at the Washington Arms Conference in 1922, which were intercepted and decoded by American representatives. He planned to have this book published by the Macmillan Company, but prior to the publication thereof, the Department of Justice caused the manuscript to be impounded for the reason that the publication of this material would involve the revelation of state secrets under Act 32, Title 50 of the United States code prohibiting agents of the Government from appropriating secret documents. This act on the part of the Government resulted in considerable newspaper publicity and according to a newspaper account, fear of the possible results of the publication of such a book on diplomatic relations with the Japanese Government led Congress to pass legislation strengthening the ban against revealing secrets considered inimical to state interests. As a matter of interest, in this newspaper account it was also alleged, in 1929 the United States Secretary of State disbanded the secret decoding bureau of the State Department as "unworthy of the Government and contrary to good ethics." The newspaper account went on to say that the Government's attempted legal action against the publication of the alleged interception of diplomatic messages failed, and that as a result thereof, Congress was compelled to pass more stringent legislation.

The incident above referred to was used by the publishers of a subsequent book by Yardley entitled, "The Blonde Countess," published in 1934 by Longmans, Green and Company, 114 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. To advertise

~~X~~

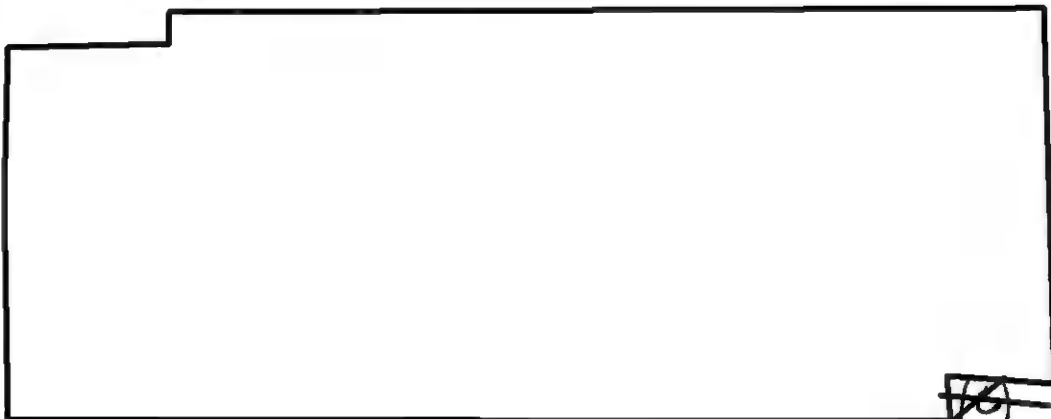
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 3 -

this latter publication of Yardley, the publishers issued an advertisement entitled, "Gagged by act of Congress -- The Blonde Countess," and appearing upon this advertisement were instructions to dip it into water and when this was done printing was disclosed revealing the following words, "The only author ever Gagged by Act of Congress resorts to fiction in his novel about the American Black Chamber 'The Blonde Countess' by Major Herbert O. Yardley, published by Longmans, Green and Company, 114 Fifth Avenue, New York."

As a matter of interest, "The Blonde Countess" was reviewed and characterized as, "A credible spy novel," of war time intrigue in Washington. "The Blonde Countess," is characterized as a German spy who obtains information, "imperiling American troop ships and in an exciting manner shows how she is captured with secret ink detectors, codes, wireless and all of the other aids to espionage and counter-espionage."

Newspaper accounts in May, 1935 carried the story that the Metro Goldwyn Mayer moving picture concern contemplated the filming of the story of Yardley's book, "The American Black Chamber."



b7D

-U-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

YARULEY, Herbert O(sborn), writer; born Worthington, Ind., April 13, 1889; s. Robert Kirkbride and Emma (Osborn) Y.; ed. Worthington, Ind., High School; m. Hazel Milan, of Worthington, Ind., 1914; 1 son, [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Entered U. S. Dept. of State, 1912; devised new diplomatic cipher code for Dept. 1914; in charge cryptographic Dept. (so-called Black Chamber), 1919-29; lecturer in cause of world peace. Served U.S.A. War Coll., as Capt. Signal Corps, 1917; maj. 1918; Chief of Mil. Intelligence No. 8, 1917-18; mil. observer staff Gen. Pershing, Aug., 1918; in charge mil. intelligence C-17 at Peace Conf., Dec., 1918; rec'd. Distinguished Service medal, 1919; hon. discharged, 1919.

Author: The American Black Chamber, 1931; The Blonde Countess, 1934; Red Sun of Nippon, 1934.

ADDRESS: Worthington, Ind.

COPIES DESTROYED

161 AUG 20 1964

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13-27581 16



and Pileup. 62-22464-140

1. front recorded & dated 9/10/32

Bo 1

Both the last & a variation to it - the  
development of the ~~code~~ ~~code~~  
method, including the code, cryptic, etc.  
BS. In only a partial way are  
methods, as in the code, referred  
to. Some of the most famous war  
systems are given

62-46855-1X3

SA C. R. 2/21/40  
only add to B. to present - 10  
you are in 62-26873-341

In jail 1918, was taken to M.I.S. Hospital, AK  
then in hospital <sup>the Chief</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup>  
was kept, while you DC & had  
deciding down to the Dept. April 10, 1918  
Superior Court in B.C. Trial OG 174744



Address in my notebook but was telephoned it  
is Penn  
Herbert O. Yardley 6-5480  
2/6/1936 61-7566-538

Dr A. B. Bell, 351 S. 1st St., Albany, N.Y. sent to B for  
inf. on codes for the young man saying in note to  
Yardley that he had no interest -

62-26873-75

my E. O. Creek, 1700 N. St. NW with DC came  
to July 21, 1939 & took a 10 hr. Picking up  
a ~~Cryptographic~~ Cryptographic device the former  
invented. Counts as best substitute in  
communication w. crypt. post is in the same  
dept. as his counts will be long but a  
man from the P.O. The American  
Black Chamber will report, of the  
relative any at that war.

62-26873-278X

Waters  
Memo Sept 9, 1932 recommended that  
American Black Chamber 1, HOC  
cryptologic, ~~present~~ formerly  
of the S.I.C. Dept. has post in  
B's library

Book described as containing instructions

**PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL**

**February 14, 1941**

## IX. SPECIAL MEMBERS

Brigadier General Sherman Miles  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
G-2, War Department  
Washington, D. C.

100-443887-1000  
ON 8/27/65 SPencer

Dear General Ellen:

I have received a report from a confidential informant of the Bureau who is stationed in New York City and who is associated with the newspaper profession. In view of the mention made of the War Department in this report and the possibility of publicity arising from the situation outlined, I thought you should have the benefit of this information. The report stated:

The working press in New York City is intensely interested in Herbert G. Yardley, the author some years ago of the rather astounding 'The Black Chamber', in which you will recall Yardley exposed the operations of the Cryptography Sections of the Federal Government during the World War period. Yardley recently disappeared from his New York address and was taken by newspaper men to discover that he has moved to Washington, where he is residing in Apartment 43 at 1789 Lumber Place, N. W. Further inquiries have disclosed that Yardley has been engaged in some confidential capacity by the War Department and is employed there at the present time. The newspaper men are all carefully watching each other on this story, each one anticipating that someone else will break the story, after which everybody will 'go to town'. No one among the reporters can understand why the War Department or any other governmental agency would hire Yardley for any confidential work after the disgraceful manner in which he sold out the Federal Government after his employment in a confidential capacity during the last war. When this story breaks, it will probably be in such a vein that it will ridicule those people who are responsible for Yardley's present employment.

RECORDED 62-2

This development is no newspaper rumor. It has been verified by the **COMMUNICATIONS SECTION** and obtained the first leads on this story. **MAILED**

Sincerely yours,

**John Edgar Hoover**  
**Director**

6496

FEB 19 1944

MAILED  
★ FEB 14 1941 ★  
P M  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

CC-160

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 12-01-2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McIntire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kleinlauf \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahn \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

PEF:atw

Date February 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In talking with Vincent ~~Astor~~ yesterday, I told him of the comments which had been made to Mr. Clegg by [redacted] concerning Herbert G. Yardley, whom Astor recalled.

-U-

b7D

I then informed him of the information received as to Yardley's present connection with the War Department and pointed out that, of course, such situations as this would tend to alienate any happy marriages between the [redacted]

Respectfully,

Classified by ~~SP1000/SPM~~  
Declassify on: OADR 8/27/85

P. T. Foxworth

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

370 45-1  
CLASSIFIED BY 6026 JMS BCG/la  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 6  
9-17-88

1-62-27581- 79

W. J. [signature] OKB

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

JBL:ECR

May 21, 1941

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Drayton	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

10/7/86 *SPY mac/ram*  
*per referral from FCC let. dtd 8/8/86*  
*\* letter from ATF dtd 8/14/86*  
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. P. E. FOXWORTH

Mr. George E. Sterling of the Federal Communications Commission advised me telephonically on May 20, 1941, that C. E. Reeves of the Alcohol Tax Unit, had contacted him for Major Yardley, the author of "The American Black Chamber." Mr. Sterling stated that Yardley is representing some people outside of the United States who are interested in obtaining high frequency radio direction finder equipment. Reeves indicated that Yardley wished such inquiries to be guarded and treated with secrecy. Mr. Sterling furnished Reeves with the names of a few suppliers of equipment of this kind. [S-1] (84)

Mr. Sterling stated that he thought the Bureau would be interested in this inquiry on the part of Major Yardley and that any additional information he receives will be called to the Bureau's attention.

Classified by *SPY mac/ram*  
Declassify on: OADR  
Respectfully,

John B. Little

FOI/PA # 257027  
12356  
DATE 8/27/85 INITIALS *ram*  
[S-1] to FCC

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-27581-11  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
6 MAY 26 1941  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FOXWORTH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 12-01-2011

JDL:VCO

June 12, 1941

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~

~~HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN~~

~~OTHERWISE~~

JORDAN, 62-270



-U-



-U-

Classified by *[signature]*  
Declassify on OADR 4/27/85

b7D

Information has been received to the effect that Herbert O. Yardley, author of "The American Black Chamber", is representing China in the purchase of radio equipment and is proceeding to Canada in connection with negotiations on the part of the Chinese Government to obtain one hundred Halliweather radio receivers. (S) U

No additional information was furnished; however, it was thought that these circumstances might be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

390 451  
CLASSIFIED BY *[signature]*  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X *[signature]*  
9-17-98

CH-22

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 12 1941

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*[Handwritten signature]*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 12-01-2011

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

JBL:VGG

June 6, 1941

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. P. E. FOXWORTH

Mr. Sterling of the Federal Communications Commission called me on the afternoon of June 4, 1941, and advised that he thought we might be interested in the fact that Major Yardley, author of "The American Black Chamber", is representing China in the purchase of radio equipment and is going to Canada in connection with negotiations on the part of the Chinese Government to obtain one hundred Hallicrafter receivers. [S-1] (X) U

Mr. Sterling's source was a Treasury Department representative.

Respectfully,

*John B. Little*  
John B. Little

FOI/PA #252027  
APPROVAL #  
CLASS. ACT. #  
E.O. #12356  
DATE 8/27/85 INITIALS *rpm*

[S-1] is FCC

Classified by *SP1 mac/rpm*  
Declassify on: OADR 6/27/85

Declassify on: OADR 6/27/85  
Info. from FCC declassified per referral dtd 9/21/86  
+ det. from ATF dtd 9/14/86  
507 mac/rpm  
10/7/86

INDEXED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JUN 18 1941

b7D

I have this day  
 date has been  
 set for my mouth  
 T. H. Bingham  
 J. P. Giffey

FOI/PA # 257,837	Classified by <i>Formal/Non</i>
APPEAL #	Declassify on: OADR 8/07/85
INITIAL #	<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>
N.O. # 1235A	
DATE 8/27 INITIALS <i>rpm</i>	

November 22, 1941

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

[5-1] is State  
[5-2] is Army  
[5-3] is FCC

MEMORANDUM  
Re: HERBERT OSBORN YARDLEY

According to data contained in who's who in America, Herbert Osborn Yardley was born in Northington, Indiana on April 13, 1889. He was educated in the public schools at Northington, Indiana, and in 1914 married Miss Hazel Hilam of that city. It is noted that he entered the employ of the Department of State in 1912, and devised a new diplomatic cipher code for the State Department in 1914. He served in the War College of the United States Army as a Captain of the Signal Corps in 1917, and became a Major in 1918. He also served with the Chief of Military Intelligence No. 8 from 1917 to 1918, and allegedly was on the Military Observer Staff with General Pershing in August, 1918. In 1919 he was honorably discharged from military service and received the Distinguished Service Medal.

From 1919 to 1929 Yardley was in charge of the secret cryptographic department maintained by the American Government, which was disbanded in 1929 at the order of the Secretary of State Stimson.

On November 26, 1920, information was received from a confidential source that "Mr. Yardley" was conducting a "little private enterprise for his own benefit." It appeared that Yardley, in conjunction with a Dr. Hendelsohn, who was formerly employed as a translator, and a Mr. Kenth, was compiling a commercial code for a private group, for which Yardley and his associates were to be paid \$15,000. There is no further information available which would specifically identify this "Mr. Yardley" with Herbert O. Yardley, the subject of this memorandum, but because of the nature of the information, it is being set out herein as possibly relevant. *W u*

Following the disbanding of the secret governmental group of cryptanalysts headed by Yardley, he published a book entitled "The American Black Chamber," Bobbs-Terrill Company, 1931. The book was a general treatment of the history of secret decoding work carried on under Yardley's supervision, and deals generally with the development of War Department and Military Intelligence cryptographic work, emphasizing the practical value to this government which was derived from the secret

350 451  
CLASSIFIED BY 60247/ALB/BC/2  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 6

COPIES DESTROYED 9-18-88

161 AUG 13 1984

RECORDED

INDEXED

6 DEC 4 1941



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

analysis of intercepted, coded messages of other governments. The author commented on what was described as a "bad situation in connection with cryptographic work in various departments of the Government during the World War."

Prior to the publication of "The American Black Chamber", information received from a reliable source on June 3, 1930, indicated that Yardley was threatening to make public certain confidential secrets of the War Department. *This para remains unclassified per Lt. from Army dtd 8-26-86 SP/mae/rfm 10/13/86*

Following the highly successful publication of "The American Black Chamber", information was received on September 10, 1932, that Yardley was about to publish another book, and that it would deal almost exclusively with material derived from the decoding of secret Japanese cables to Japanese governmental representatives in Washington. It was stated that Yardley was at that time consulting two good lawyers in order to avoid a libel suit; further, that Yardley had in his possession numerous copies of original War Department material, and also had retained material that should originally have been placed in the War Department files.

On February 21, 1933, an article in the New York Times, entitled, "Code Expert's I.S. on Japan is Seized," stated that "Federal men impound work by H. O. Yardley, war-time head of Cryptographic Bureau--Grand Jury gets case--author is accused of taking secret diplomatic documents when he left service."

This article reported the service of subpoena on Yardley's publishers and literary agent, who were required to testify before the Grand Jury, the subpoena requiring them to produce the manuscript of the proposed new book entitled, "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets."

The manuscript was said to disclose, in particular, information derived from the decoding of secret Japanese instructions to their delegates at the Washington Arms Conference in 1922.

On April 4, 1933, information received from a reliable source stated that the State Department was said to have felt that the publication of confidential matters such as the decoded Japanese cables to "its Arms Conference delegates in 1922, would be diplomatically embarrassing. According to this source of information the State Department had caused the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York to institute appropriate legal action in enjoining publication of the book, "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets."

- 3 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In the May 28, 1933 issue of the "Japan Chronicle", published in the English language at Kobe, Japan, there appeared an article entitled "State Secrets Decoded--Japanese Diplomatic Messages." This article stated:

"Fears that a British publisher may be offered a book about Japanese secret diplomacy, to prevent the publication of which a bill was recently rushed through the United States Congress, are now being expressed in official circles in Washington. This book, by Mr. Herbert O. Yardley, who was head of the secret decoding unit of the United States Government until 1929, is believed to be an extension of revelations contained in his 'The American Black Chamber' and to deal exclusively with messages from the Japanese Government to its Washington Embassy."

The article continues:

"Mr. Yardley's 'The American Black Chamber,' published two years ago, and much towards accentuating the differences between the United States and Japan, states the Washington correspondent of the British United Press....the book led to bitter recriminations against the United States in Japan and made Mr. Yardley famous in the United States....anxiety was shown by the authorities when it was known that Mr. Yardley had another book on the way, and when he replied to protests by saying that he considered it his patriotic duty to show what important work Mr. Stimson (Secretary of State) had stopped because of mere naive idealism, the only course left for the government was to rush through a bill on the lines of the British Official Secrets Act. This was done only after legal action had failed."

On April 4, 1934, Longmans, Green and Company, New York publishers, brought out a spy novel by Yardley entitled "The Blond Countess," described as a very readable novel concerning the imaginary operations of a lady spy in Washington during the first world war. The book was described as being an interesting study of various espionage and counter-espionage methods and activities.

Information was received on July 6, 1934, which indicated that Yardley had unsuccessfully attempted to sell the story "Intrigue" to a prominent New York newspaper, the story involving Japan.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 4 -

On June 23, 1937, information was received from a confidential source that Major H. C. Yardley was then living at an unknown address in New York, his confidential telephone number being Penn. 6-5480.

On September 7, 1940, a highly reliable source indicated that Yardley had arrived at Chungking, China, in the autumn of 1938 and had lived there under the name of Osborne, pretending to transact business in hides. Actually, Yardley was reported to have been engaged in secret code work for the Chinese Government, leaving Chungking in August, 1940. It was stated that shortly before leaving, he abandoned his cloak of secrecy and let his true identity and purpose be known generally among the international group in Chungking. [S-1] (U) declassified per State letter 8-11-87, 9-5-87 am

As of June 28, 1941, information was received to the effect that Yardley was back in Washington, D. C. It was rumored that he had been hired under a very secret Government contract to do special work involving several of the governmental departments. [S-2] (U) declassified per letter from Army dated 8/26/86 SP7 mac/afm 10/15/86

On February 14, 1941, information was received that the working press in New York City was intensely interested in Herbert O. Yardley. It was stated that Yardley had recently disappeared from his New York address, and inquiries by newspaper men had disclosed that he had moved to Washington and was residing at 1789 Lanier Place, N. W. Further inquiries are said to have disclosed that Yardley had been engaged in an unknown confidential capacity by unidentified governmental agencies, and that the newspaper men were carefully watching each other on this story, each one anticipating that someone else would break the story. This source of information expressed the opinion that no one among the reporters could understand why any governmental agency "would hire Yardley for any confidential work after the disgraceful manner in which he sold out the Federal Government after his employment in a confidential capacity during the last war."

On February 15, 1941, information was noted to the effect that

[REDACTED]

b7D

-U-

Information was received from a reliable source on May 20, 1941, that Yardley was secretly representing an outside friendly power and attempting to obtain high frequency radio direction finder equipment. [S-3] (U) declassified per reference letter from FCC dated 8/21/86 SP7 mac/afm 10/19/86

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On June 6, 1941, information was received from a reliable source that Yardley was going to Canada in an effort to obtain one hundred short wave radio receivers, in the interest of a friendly power.

*Declassified per original list  
from SEC. 100/2/01/86  
SAC, MAC/100  
10/8/86  
[S-37]X/U*

Information from a reliable source on October 9, 1941, noted that [REDACTED]

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-U-

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOI/PAI 257027

~~SECRET~~  
C. J. R. M. A. C. R. 11/16

November 22, 1941

12356

8/27/85

(S-1) is state  
S-2 is army  
S-3 is FCC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Re: HERBERT OSBORN YARDLEY

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-19-2011 BY 60322~~

According to data contained in Who's Who in America, Herbert Osborn Yardley was born in Werthington, Indiana on April 13, 1889. He was educated in the public schools at Werthington, Indiana, and in 1914 married Miss Hazel Kilan of that city. It is noted that he entered the employ of the Department of State in 1912, and devised a new diplomatic cipher code for the State Department in 1914. He served in the War College of the United States Army as a Captain of the Signal Corps in 1917, and became a Major in 1918. He also served with the Chief of Military Intelligence No. 8 from 1917 to 1918, and allegedly was on the Military Observer Staff with General Pershing in August, 1918. In 1919 he was honorably discharged from military service and received the Distinguished Service Medal.

From 1919 to 1929 Yardley was in charge of the secret cryptographic department maintained by the American Government, which was disbanded in 1929 at the order of the Secretary of State Stimson. (62-751-1-16)

On November 26, 1920, information was received from a confidential source that "Mr. Yardley" was conducting a "little private enterprise for his own benefit." It appeared that Yardley, in conjunction with a Dr. Mendelssohn, who was formerly employed as a translator, and a Mr. Month, was compiling a commercial code for a private group, for which Yardley and his associates were to be paid \$15,000. There is no further information available which would specifically identify this "Mr. Yardley" with Herbert O. Yardley, the subject of this memorandum, but because of the nature of the information, it is being set out herein as possibly relevant. (61-825-20; CI - [redacted] - 1920) (S) U

b7D

Following the disbanding of the secret governmental group of cryptanalysts headed by Yardley, he published a book entitled "The American Black Chamber," Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1931. The book was a general treatment of the history of secret decoding work carried on under Yardley's supervision, and deals generally with the development of War Department and Military Intelligence cryptographic work, emphasizing the practical value to this government which was derived from the secret

39045  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED IN 1986~~  
2-11-78

Inc

11-11-11

analysis of intercepted, coded messages of other governments. The author commented on what was described as a "bad situation in connection with cryptographic work in various departments of the Government during the World War." (61-27581-16)

Prior to the publication of "The American Black Chamber", information received from a reliable source on June 3, 1930, indicated that Yardley was threatening to make public certain confidential secrets of the War Department.

*62-27581-1; Col. Loring, 1D, War Dept. This para remains unclassified per letter from Army Staff, 26 Feb 1986*

Following the highly successful publication of "The American Black Chamber", information was received on September 10, 1932, that Yardley was about to publish another book, and that it would deal almost exclusively with material derived from the decoding of secret Japanese cables to Japanese governmental representatives in Washington. It was stated that Yardley was at that time consulting two good lawyers in order to avoid a libel suit; further, that Yardley had in his possession numerous copies of original War Department material, and also had retained material that should originally have been placed in the War Department files. (60-27581-11; R. Jastle, State c to, 4 per State Sept letter 2-11-87 Gmm)

On February 21, 1933, an article in the New York Times, entitled, "Code Experts' MS. on Japan is Seized," stated that "Federal men impound work by H. O. Yardley, War-time head of Cryptographic Bureau--Grand Jury gets case--Author is accused of taking secret diplomatic documents when he left service."

This article reported the service of subpoena on Yardley's publishers and literary agent, who were required to testify before the Grand Jury, the subpoena requiring them to produce the manuscript of the proposed new book entitled, "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets."

The manuscript was said to disclose, in particular, information derived from the decoding of secret Japanese instructions to their delegates at the Washington Arms Conference in 1922. (62-275-1-5A; New York Times, Feb. 21, 1933)

On April 4, 1933, information received from a reliable source stated that the State Department was said to have felt that the publication of confidential matters such as the decoded Japanese cables to "its Arms Conference delegates in 1922, would be diplomatically embarrassing. According to this source of information the State Department had caused the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York to institute appropriate legal action in enjoining publication of the book, "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets." (61-2568-2; letter from L. Keith, 13, 13h, 1107)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In the May 28, 1933 issue of the "Japan Chronicle", published in the English language at Kobe, Japan, there appeared an article entitled "State Secrets Decoded--Japanese Diplomatic Messages." This article stated:

"Fears that a British publisher may be offered a book about Japanese secret diplomacy, to prevent the publication of which a bill was recently rushed through the United States Congress, are now being expressed in official circles in Washington. This book, by Mr. Herbert G. Yardley, who was head of the secret decoding unit of the United States Government until 1929, is believed to be an extension of revelations contained in his 'The American Black Chamber' and to deal exclusively with messages from the Japanese Government to its Washington Embassy."

The article continues:

"Mr. Yardley's 'The American Black Chamber,' published two years ago, did much towards accentuating the differences between the United States and Japan, states the Washington correspondent of the British United Press....the book led to bitter recriminations against the United States in Japan and made Mr. Yardley famous in the United States....anxiety was shown by the authorities when it was known that Mr. Yardley had another book on the way, and when he replied to protests by saying that he considered it his patriotic duty to show what important work Mr. Stimson (Secretary of State) had stopped because of mere naive idealism, the only course left for the government was to rush through a bill on the lines of the British Official Secrets Act. This was done only after legal action had failed."

On April 4, 1934, Longmans, Green and Company, New York publishers, brought out a spy novel by Yardley entitled "The Blind Countess," described as a very readable novel concerning the imaginary operations of a lady spy in Washington during the first World War. The book was described as being an interesting study of various espionage and counter-espionage methods and activities. (62-751-1)

Information was received on July 6, 1934, which indicated that Yardley had unsuccessfully attempted to sell the story "Intrigue" to a prominent New York newspaper, the story involving Japan. (62-27591-10: Miss  
Mr. Section Editor, N.Y. Sunday  
Editorial Bureau)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On June 23, 1937, information was received from a confidential source that Major H. O. Yardley was then living at an unknown address in New York, his confidential telephone number being Penn. 6-3480. (61-566-538; CI [redacted])

b7D

On September 7, 1940, a highly reliable source indicated that Yardley had arrived at Chungking, China, in the autumn of 1938 and had lived there under the name of Osborne, pretending to transact business in hides. Actually, Yardley was reported to have been engaged in secret code work for the Chinese Government, leaving Chungking in August, 1940. It was stated that shortly before leaving, he abandoned his cloak of secrecy and let his true identity and purpose be known generally among the international group in Chungking. (65-31079-1; State Dept. ispatch from U. S. Ambassador, Chungking, China). (S-1)(P) u per State letter 2-11-47

As of June 28, 1941, information was received to the effect that Yardley was back in Washington, D. C. It was rumored that he had been hired under a very secret Government contract to do special work involving several of the governmental departments. (62-27541-15, Col. (Signal Corps) This para declass 10/21/86

On February 14, 1941, information was received that the working press in New York City was intensely interested in Herbert O. Yardley. It was stated that Yardley had recently disappeared from his New York address, and inquiries by newspaper men had disclosed that he had moved to Washington and was residing at 1789 Lanier Place, N. W. Further inquiries are said to have disclosed that Yardley had been engaged in an unknown confidential capacity by unidentified governmental agencies, and that the newspaper men were carefully watching each other on this story, each one anticipating that someone else would break the story. This source of information expressed the opinion that no one among the reporters could understand why any governmental agency "would hire Yardley for any confidential work after the disgraceful manner in which he sold out the Federal Government after his employment in a confidential capacity during the last war." (62-27541-17; letter for record to Gen. Sherman Miles, [redacted] per [redacted])

On February 15, 1941, information was noted to the effect that

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-U-

[redacted] (S-1)(P) 62-27541-19; [redacted] r. (College)

Information was received from a reliable source on May 20, 1941, that Yardley was secretly representing an outside friendly power and attempting to obtain high frequency radio direction finder equipment. (62-27541-19; [redacted] [redacted])

Declassified per referral from  
FCC dtd 8/21/86  
507 mac/rpm  
10/2/86



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On June 6, 1941, information was received from a reliable source that Yardley was going to Canada in an effort to obtain one hundred short wave radio receivers, in the interest of a friendly power (62-27581-20; George E. Sterling, MCC)

*Discontinued per referral from BCC, dated 8/1/86*

Information from a reliable source on October 9, 1941, noted

that

[REDACTED]

(62-64856-1; r. . . . . Jolley)

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5-31  
10/7/86

b7D

-U-



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
January 13, 1942

GCB:JEA

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒  
Mr. Clegg ☐  
Mr. Glavin ☒  
Mr. Ladd ☒  
Mr. Nichols ☐  
Mr. Tracy ☐  
Mr. Rosen ☐  
Mr. Carson ☐  
Mr. Coffey ☐  
Mr. Hendon ☐  
Mr. Holloman ☐  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☐  
Mr. Nease ☐  
Miss Gandy ☐

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-27-85 BY SP1 mac/14pm  
Army info remains unclassified + 10 SP1 mac/14pm  
remains unclassified from Army 11/26/86 10/8/86

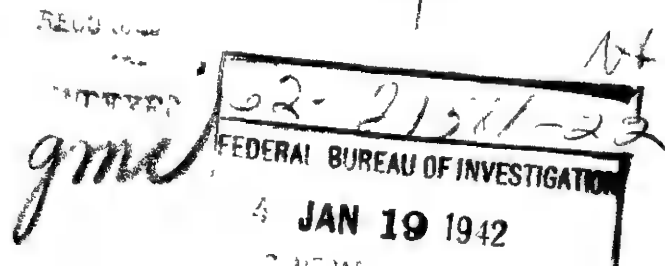
Reference is made to my previous blue memorandum to you with reference to the setup of an American black chamber by Colonel Donovan. In my memorandum I stated that Colonel Bissell had advised me that Herbert Yardley is reported to have been selected by Colonel Donovan to head this organization and his backing is reported to have come from the White House. Colonel Bissell has now advised me that Mrs. Roosevelt was backing Yardley and that through the efforts of the Army, Yardley's appointment has been killed as far as Colonel Bissell knows.

Colonel Bissell also advised me that he had been reliably informed that Colonel Donovan was trying to get into field with troops.

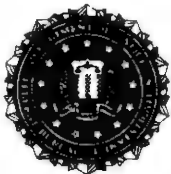
Respectfully,

*G. C. Burton*  
G. C. Burton

4 JAN 23 1942



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

February 4, 1942

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED**

**HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

**DATE 8-27-85 BY SP7 mac/ram**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR**

SJT:BT

RE: VISIT OF HERBERT O. YARDLEY

In accordance with your instructions, an appointment was arranged with Mr. Yardley yesterday and Messrs. C. A. Appel, W. G. Blackburn and the writer conferred with him.

With reference to Mr. Yardley's new and original method of approach to cryptographic analysis, we explored what Mr. Yardley had to offer at some length and Messrs. Appel and Blackburn state with reference to this:

"Mr. Yardley stated that "we" have worked out simplified superior procedure changes especially applicable in the decrypting of transposition of ciphers in which a grill is used and which use the method of probabilities. Considerable conversation ensued concerning the exact method of using probabilities, and he stated that he means the mathematical probability of the combination of letters in digraphs, trigraphs, etc. as opposed to the traditional cryptographers' frequency tables of totals showing the normal frequency of combinations of letters in digraphs and trigraphs in a given language. In explaining how the probabilities are calculated he said the frequency of one letter as an "e" is multiplied by the frequency of another letter as an "s" and this total is divided by the frequency of the digraph "es" yielding the "probabilities" which is to Messrs. Blackburn and Appel still a mysterious calculation. For this reason, he was pressed for details as to methods in general, and did not mention a detailed method of work from which it could be assumed that he knows personally how to attack current cryptograms used by the Germans and other agents. He referred to his work in Canada and in China. In Canada he took a girl from the Army Signal Corps, and it may be that she rather than he knew the detailed methods. Referring to his China work, he stated he had a great deal of success with Japanese cryptograms. He was asked if they had any success with codes, and he stated he had a great deal of success in solving codes, mentioning the Kana Code and talked at great length but without particularity. Codes are not solved in this way by mathematics or original thought. Solutions actually depend upon luck, investigative work, and the procurement of a code book. Therefore his claim is a clear indication that his other statements are boastful and for the purpose of impressing the Bureau with the need for his services."

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Carson ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Hendon ✓  
Mr. Holloman ✓  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Miss Basham ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

62-27581-23

FEB 17 1942

He appears to have nothing new or original

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161 NOV 13 1997

It was quite apparent that Mr. Yardley had an axe to grind or was seeking something. At the beginning of our talk, Mr. Yardley inquired as to what it was we would like to know about cryptography and he was informed that we had no specific questions. However, that in his letter to the Director he had mentioned that he desired to offer some new and original methods of approach to the subject. He then discussed the subject matter as described above.

He informed us that he had spent two years until some time in 1940 in China as the only white man ever to enter the service of the Chinese Intelligence. He, as a matter of conversation, stated that if anyone in this country believed that the Chinese like the Americans or any members of the white race we were badly mistaken. He stated that they were still orientals and the white race were still occidentals and that there was quite a line of demarkation. It is his opinion that the Chinese are interested in Americans only so far as they can get something out of them. He stated that an American's life and property are far more secure in China than they are on the streets of the United States, that although they rob one another they will not touch a white person. He stated that extortion and graft and thievery are very common among the Chinese.

As the conference was nearing its conclusion, Mr. Yardley stated that he would like to take an additional five minutes to discuss a personal subject, and he was advised we would be happy to listen to him. He then stated that he wanted to be removed from the "black list." I told him I did not understand his question. He continued that he was on the "black list" of the War Department, Navy Department, State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I suggested that he enlarge his statement as I did not understand him. He then went on into a historical dissertation covering his service during the past world War and personal differences he has had with Mr. Freedman who succeeded him in the Cryptographic Section in the Signal Corps, U. S. Army. He stated that Freedman had done everything possible to discredit him and his name and that he was still doing so. He advised that the State Department, when he attempted to publish certain documents in New York City following the publication of his book, took action to stop him although the matter was entirely harmless and that the FBI participated in this particular action when it had Mr. Thomas E. Dewey handle the case in New York City, that he did not understand why the FBI participated in helping put him on a "black list." I told him I was quite surprised at his statement inasmuch as Mr. Dewey was not employed with the FBI. Mr. Yardley was obviously very much surprised also, as he stated that he understood that Mr. Dewey was this Bureau's representative in New York City. I told him that Mr. Dewey at the time was employed by the U. S. Attorney's Office and that he had no connection whatever with the FBI. He apologized and stated he had been wrongly accusing the FBI in his mind for participating in the prosecution of him.

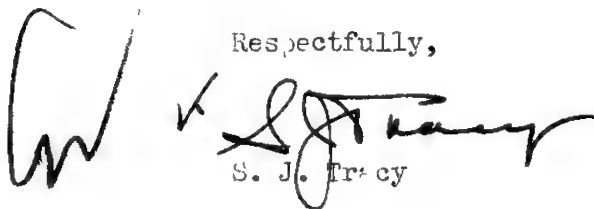
Mr. Yardley advised that he has been unable to make a connection in the Army, in the Navy, in the State Department, and that he would like to offer whatever talents he has to his government during the present emergency. He said he is not seeking a position as he is not in need of one, that he is financially independent so to speak.

He stated that he understood in a conversation between Mr. E. A. Tamm of this Bureau and a representative of the War Department that Mr. Tamm stated that he doubted the Bureau would be able to use the services of Yardley. I informed him that of course I did not know of such a meeting or statement, that however he would not be eligible for consideration for a position in this Bureau inasmuch as he would be unable of course to meet the age requirements and furthermore, that this Bureau did not employ people who had never worked at this Bureau except at the minimum salary. The statement of Mr. Tamm was supposed to have been made on or about December 9, 1941.

It was apparent that Mr. Yardley's attempts to see the Director were for the purpose of getting himself off the "black list" as he called it. He is on a fishing expedition to find out all he can concerning his inability to secure a position with the Army, Navy, or State Department. It is also obvious that he would like to be in charge of a Cryptographic Section during the present emergency. He is a good talker. However, as pointed out by Messrs. Appel and Blackburn he does not have too deep a knowledge of his subject. Mr. Appel feels that Mr. Yardley's secretary who has been with him for many years is probably the one who has been carrying on the detailed cryptographic analysis work for him.

Upon departing, Mr. Yardley desired to offer his services to this Bureau at any time, any place, anywhere. He can be reached at the two addresses set forth in his letter.

Respectfully,

  
S. J. Tracy

January 22, 1942.

Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/aa

Attention Mr. Tamm

Sir:

This is to inform you that I returned to Washington yesterday after seven months' employment by the Canadian Government in Ottawa. Briefly, in May, 1941, Canadian Officials came to see General Mauborgne (now retired), Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army, and asked for someone to go to Canada to organize a confidential bureau. General Mauborgne had no one available who was qualified for the position, so recommended me for the post. I had returned from China a few months earlier where I had been a confidential advisor to the Generalissimo for nearly two years.

I was immediately invited to Ottawa for a conference with Military Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, Mounted Police, External Affairs, National Research, Chief Telegraph Censor, Chief Postal Censor, Air Intelligence. From June 9th, I was employed by the Canadian Government. On January 10th I turned over my work to an Englishman who arrived from London... You are doubtless aware of some of the circumstances. Copies of letters from Canadian officials are attached which give some measure of proof of my success.

And it is because of my success there that I am writing - success due to new and original methods of approach. If you are at all interested in these matters I shall be happy to confer with you. My address for at least the next thirty days is 4016 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. - Telephone Randolph 7288. I can be reached there except for a few days when I shall be in New York, and while in New York can be reached through George T. Bye, 535 Fifth Avenue.

Yours very truly,

HERBERT O. YARDLEY

FEB 17 1942

*I should like to explain them all*

*11*  
*I ENCL. 11*  
*3/21/42*  
*2/4/42*

*Handwritten notes and signatures at bottom left.*

Department of  
External Affairs  
Canada

Ottawa, 6th January, 1942.

My dear Major Yardley,

On the eve of your departure from Canada I desire to send you my thanks for the very useful services which you have rendered during the seven months that you have been in Ottawa. I know that the organization of the special Examination Unit which you set up under the National Research Council presented difficulties of some magnitude. I have seen the results of the work of your Unit and I have been following with a great deal of interest the progress which you and your assistants have made, and I cannot help but feel that the whole Unit constitutes a very valuable contribution.

I understand that you are now returning to your own country and that you will probably be following similar lines of work there. May I take this opportunity of wishing you the best success in all your future undertakings.

Yours sincerely,

A. ROBERTSON  
Under Secretary of State for  
External Affairs

Major H. O. Yardley,  
Ottawa.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP1 mac/apm

12-24581-1

Department  
External Affairs  
Canada

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/07/85 BY SP7 YMC/12/12/85

Ottawa, 6th January, 1942.

This letter is to state that Mr. Herbert O. Yardley is returning to the United States after having been employed since June 1941 by the Canadian Government on confidential war work. Any courtesies and facilities that could be extended to Mr. Yardley would be appreciated by those Departments of the Canadian Government for whom he has been doing such valuable work.

COPI

L. B. PEARSON  
for  
Under-Secretary of State  
for External Affairs

To Canadian and United States Officials  
at the Border.

(2 2/1/42)



**January 2, 1942**

Re: **BERNARD CROUCH TARDLEY**

Respectfully,

A &amp; A Publishing Co.

9/27/85 STU name from  
Army info remains unclassified  
& is releasable per let from Army  
dated 8/26/86 STU name / apr  
10/8/86

3/12/42 675

1-212-1-1  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 13 1942  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
W.F.B.

WEB:elc

Declassify on: OADR 1/27/85

January 2, 1942

CLASSIFICATION 25X 4

9-11-98

MEMORANDUM

HERBERT OSBORN YARDLEY

Herbert Osborn Yardley was born in Northampton, Indiana, on April 13, 1889. He was educated in public schools at Northampton, Indiana, and in 1914 married Miss Hazel Wilson of that city. He entered the employ of the Department of State in 1912, and subsequently in 1914 devised a new diplomatic cipher code for the Department of State.

During the World War he served in the United States Army War College as a Captain in the Signal Corps and was promoted to the rank of Major in 1918. He also served as Chief of Military Intelligence Number 8 from 1917 to 1918 and allegedly was on the military observers staff with General Pershing in August 1918. It further appears that he was in charge of military intelligence at the Peace Conference in December 1918. He was awarded a distinguished service medal in 1919 and in the same year was honorably discharged from the United States Army. From 1919 to 1929 he was in charge of the Cryptographic Department (the so-called black chamber). (Who's Who in America, Vol 20)

On November 26, 1920, information was received from a confidential source that "Mr. Yardley" was conducting a "little private enterprise for his own benefit." It appeared that Yardley, in conjunction with a Dr. Mandelsohn, who was formerly employed as a translator, and a Mr. Menth, was compiling a commercial code for a private group, for which Yardley and his associates were to be paid \$15,000. There is no further information available which would specifically identify this "Mr. Yardley" with Herbert O. Yardley, the subject of this memorandum, but because of the nature of the information, it is being set out herein as possibly relevant. (61-825-203; CI - [redacted] 1920) b7D

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Following the disbanding of the secret governmental group of cryptanalysts headed by Yardley, he published a book entitled "The American Black Chamber," Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1931. The book was a general treatment of the history of secret decoding work carried on under Yardley's supervision, and deals generally with the development of War Department and Military Intelligence cryptographic work, emphasizing the practical value to this government which was derived from the secret analysis of intercepted, coded messages of other governments. The author commented on what was described as a "bad situation in connection with cryptographic work in various departments of the Government during the World War." (61-27581-16)

3-41  
To Col. Connel  
order M.I.D.  
at his request  
B.G.B.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 13 1942

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
- 2 -

Prior to the publication of "The American Black Chamber," information received from a reliable source on June 3, 1933, indicated that Yardley was threatening to make public certain confidential secrets of the War Department. (62-27581-18) Col. Albright, MID, War Dept. *per Army 8/26/36 297 and 1/2*

Following the highly successful publication of "The American Black Chamber," information was received on September 15, 1932, that Yardley was about to publish another book, and that it would deal almost exclusively with material derived from the decoding of secret Japanese cables to Japanese governmental representatives in Washington. It was stated that Yardley was at that time consulting two good lawyers in order to avoid a libel suit; further, that Yardley had in his possession numerous copies of original War Department material, and also had retained material that should originally have been placed in the War Department files. (62-27581-1x; Mr. Castle, State Dept)

On February 21, 1933, the New York Times published an article entitled "Code Expert Manuscript on Japan is Seized." The article states that the manuscript of a new book by Herbert O. Yardley, head of the secret American cryptographic Bureau during the World War, was seized and impounded by the Department of Justice under Section 32, Title 50 of the United States Code, which prohibits agents of the Government from appropriating secret documents. The article continues that the manuscript deals with the intercepting and decoding of instructions sent to the Japanese delegates at the Washington Arms Conference in 1922. (62-27581-3x)

On April 4, 1933, information received from a reliable source stated that the State Department was said to have felt that the publication of confidential matters such as the decoded Japanese cables to "its Arms Conference delegates in 1922, would be diplomatically embarrassing." According to this source of information the State Department had caused the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York to institute appropriate legal action in enjoining publication of the book, "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets."

The Japan Chronicle, under date of May 28, 1933, contained an article entitled "State Secrets Decoded." The article stated that it was feared by officials in Washington a British publisher may be offered Mr. Herbert O. Yardley's book about Japanese secret diplomacy, which deals exclusively with messages of the Japanese Government to its Washington Embassy.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
- 3 -

It is stated that the United States Congress recently rushed through a bill to prevent the publication of Yardley's book. The article further states that Mr. Yardley's book, "The American Black Chamber," did much toward accentuating the difference between the United States and Japan, according to the Washington correspondent of the British United Press. It further states that Mr. Yardley had replied to protests by saying that he considered it his patriotic duty to show what important work Mr. Stimson, the Secretary of State, had stopped because of mere naive idealism.

On April 4, 1934, Longmans, Green and Company, New York publishers, brought out a spy novel by Yardley entitled "The Black Countess," described as a very readable novel concerning the imaginary operations of a lady spy in Washington during the first World War. The book was described as being an interesting study of various espionage and counterespionage methods and activities. (62-27581-9)

Information was received on July 6, 1934, that Yardley had unsuccessfully attempted to sell a story entitled "Intrigue" to a prominent New York newspaper. It was reported that this story involved Japan. (62-27581-12 - Miss Finn, NY Herald Tribune)

On September 7, 1940, a highly reliable source indicated that Yardley had arrived at Chungking, China, in the autumn of 1938 and had lived there under the name of Osborne, pretending to transact business in hides. Actually, Yardley was reported to have been engaged in secret code work for the Chinese Government, leaving Chungking in August 1940. It was stated that shortly before leaving he abandoned his cloak of secrecy and let his true identity and purpose be known generally among the international group in Chungking. (65-31079-1; State Dept) dispatch from US Ambassador, Chungking, China) *5-17/87 U.S. State Dept 2-11-87*

On February 14, 1941, information was received that the working press in New York City was intensely interested in Herbert C. Yardley. It was stated that Yardley had recently disappeared from his New York address, and inquiries by newspapermen had disclosed that he had moved to Washington and was residing at 1789 Lander Place, N. W. Further inquiries are said to have disclosed that Yardley had been engaged in an unknown confidential capacity by unidentified governmental agencies, and that the newspapermen were carefully watching each other on this story, each one anticipating that someone else would break the story. This source of information expressed the opinion that no one among the reporters could understand why any governmental agency "would hire Yardley for any confidential work after the disgraceful manner in which he sold out the Federal Government after his employment in a confidential capacity during the last war." (62-27581-17; letter from Director to Gen Sherman Miles, G-2, War Dept.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 4 -

On February 15, 1941, information was noted to the effect that [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] (62-27581-18; Mr. H. H. Clegg)

b7D

Information was received from a reliable source on June 6, 1941, that Yardley was representing China in the purchase of radio equipment and was going to Canada in connection with negotiating on the part of the Chinese Government to obtain 100 Halligrather receivers (62-27581-19-20)

*Declassified per referral of from FCC dated 8/21/84 [S-3] (R) U  
SP7 mac/npw  
10/5/84*

Information was received on June 28, 1941, that Yardley was back in Washington, D. C. It was rumored that he had been employed under a very secret government contract to do special work involving several of the governmental departments (62-27581-15, Colonel Atkins, Signal Corps)

*Declassified per letter from [redacted]  
dated 8/25/86 SP4 mac/npw  
10/5/84*

Information from a reliable source on October 9, 1941, reported that [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] (62-64856-1 Mr. E.P. Coffey)

b7D

4

~~X~~

LLT:JC  
99-39

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
Washington Field Division, 1437 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

May 12, 1942

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated November 29, 1941, transmitting a copy of the War Department's Inspection Responsibility List No. 2, dated August 27, 1941, together with a copy of Inspection Responsibility List No. 2-A (Supplemental), dated November 1, 1941, and requesting that sufficient confidential informants be developed in the listed plants in the District of Columbia.

Maintained among the copies located in the District of Columbia was the name HERBERT O. YARDLEY. A search of the directory and files of the credit bureaus in the District of Columbia fails to reveal any listing or record of HERBERT O. YARDLEY.

No further action is being taken in connection with that name.

Very truly yours,

*S. K. McKee*  
S. K. McKee  
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7mac/npa  
war dept info is unnecessary per letter  
from Army dated 8-26-86 SP7mac/npa  
12/15/86

EX - 18

COPIES DESTROYED  
261 MAY 1 1964

191  
MAY 21 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

62-27581-2  
MAY 14 1942

1/12/43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-27-85 BY SP7MAC/SPW

Dear Sir

I am most interested in  
establishing contact with Mr.  
Robert J. <sup>(1)</sup>Oppenheimer, former chief  
of the American Photographic  
Branch MI-8, of whom you are  
familiar with. I would greatly  
appreciate your informing me of  
his present mailing address.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

D119

62-27581-28  
2 JAN 16 1943  
[Signature]  
EX-16

all 43  
23  
49

FILES DIVISION  
FORWARDED  
JAN 30 4 26 PM '43  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

GKS:AW  
62-27561-28

February 4, 1943

Mr. Robert Schwartz  
7707 Woodlawn Avenue  
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Your letter of January 12, 1943, has been received and I wish to advise that data contained in the files of the FBI is confidential by Congressional enactment. I regret that I am unable to advise you concerning the matter you have in mind.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

8-27-85 SP7man/pe

Mr Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr E A Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 5 17 38 PM '43



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO DIRECTOR, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE April 7, 1945

FROM GUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington Field

SUBJECT. HERBERT O. YARDLEY  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNINGALL INFO. NOT CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/29/85 BY SP7mac/apm  
comp 257027

On April 2, 1945, Informant [redacted] of the PANIP Case, advised that [redacted] had mentioned to him that while [redacted] was attached to the Japanese Embassy in Washington some years ago, an American approached members of the Japanese Diplomatic Staff stating that he had come into possession of certain secret documents belonging to the Japanese Government, and that he intended using such documents in a book he was to publish. This man allegedly stated that he would refrain from publishing the book in return for a substantial payment from the Japanese Government.

b7D

[redacted] allegedly stated that Tokyo authorized a substantial payment which was made to this American, after having discovered that certain documents were, in fact, missing from the Japanese Embassy; that the American is said to have received the payment, and then doublecrossed the Japanese by publishing the book.

b7D

Informant [redacted] states that an article captioned "HERBERT YARDLEY, MASTER CODE-BREAKER, WRITES THRILLERS DURING HIS 'OFF HOURS' ", by JOHN GRIFFEE, appeared in the "Washington Evening Star" for Sunday, April 1, 1945. [redacted] states that HERBERT O. YARDLEY is identical with the man mentioned by [redacted] it being noted that YARDLEY was formerly an employee of the Department of State, according to the article.

b7D

The article is being quoted in its entirety for the information of the Bureau.

" In relatively minor obscurity in a Government job, America's crack code-breaker of World War I today hatches hair-raising plots and writes for the fiction market.

HERBERT O. YARDLEY, whose revelations in 1931 of 'The American Black Chamber' in a book by that name stung high officials to decry the volume, works by day in the District Office of Price Administration and in his off hours writes 'thrillers' in collaboration with a professor of English.

To would-be fiction writers who think it easy the master cryptographer says:

'Don't unless you have seen a lot of life.'

He has 'lived' much of his fiction, and yet his string of books is not long. By 'living' his fiction, he means seeing life in the raw. His latest product is 'Crows Are Black Everywhere' (reviewed in The Star, March 4), a story of intrigue in China, and grew out of his experiences as adviser to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

EX-141

INDEXED

50 APR 22 1945

COPIES DESTROYED  
101 AUG 13 1964

DIRECTOR

April 7, 1945

" Putting together a fiction plot, in the opinion of this old code man who served as a major in the intelligence service in the last war, is not a difficult matter -- it is the background matter that counts.

'Your suspense comes by putting your characters in trouble and then taking them through the results.. And if you have seen enough life you have no trouble creating the characters and setting up their troubles and triumphs.'

In writing 'Crows Are Black Everywhere', YARDLEY supplied the facts, plot and color; ~~CARL~~ GRABO, professor of English at the University of Chicago, gave the story the writing polish. The result was a piece of fiction that has been generally well received by reviewers.

WRITES WHEN HE FEELS LIKE IT.

YARDLEY roams because he likes it and writes after he gets his facts. He brought back from his two-year China experience a 30,000-word brochure packed with description of war, refugees, dives, gruesome events, strange characters and stranger experiences. Out of this probably will come other books based on life and war in China, but YARDLEY makes no promises. He writes when he feels like it.

His first book was 'The ~~Black~~ American Black Chamber,' in which he told of his work as a code-breaker for the State Department from 1919 to 1929. He brought it out in 1931, and he recalls that it ran into criticism in diplomatic quarters, where it was felt the book embarrassed officials in diplomatic dealings with other nations.

So YARDLEY took to the lecture platform, then went to Hollywood, where he wrote for the movies until 1936. During that time, he brought out two more works, 'The Blond Countess' and 'Red Son of Nippon.'

Code work has been YARDLEY's life. Born in Worthington, Ind., in 1889, he attended the schools there and joined the State Department in 1912. Two years later he worked out a special diplomatic cipher code and when the United States entered the war in 1917 he was commissioned a captain in the Signal Corps.

A major by 1918, he was given a high post in intelligence, placed on Gen. PERSHING's staff and was at the Peace Conference at Versailles as an observer. In 1919 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and was discharged the same year to head up the State Department's cryptographic unit that ultimately led to his 'Black Chamber' troubles.

He went to China because he had a job to do. In 1938 Chiang Kai-shek wanted an expert code man to teach his intelligence officers some of the finer parts of the art. YARDLEY then was in the prosaic business of selling real estate and was available. He joined the generalissimo's staff in

DIRECTOR

April 7, 1945

"

Chungking when China's fortunes were at a low ebb and the city was rather primitive.

Of work, YARDLEY speaks little. He mentions that he was under an assumed name; that he had a large staff of guards, servants and interpreters for his two-year stay; that he had ample time to exercise his powers of observation of Chinese life and customs.

In October, 1940, his job finished, YARDLEY returned to the United States, and in the spring went to Ottawa, Canada, where he was with the Canadian government for nine months, and then he returned to the United States to become an investigator for the OPA and to write.

He looks the part of a typical American businessman, which fits him well into the OPA investigative picture. Short and stocky, of ruddy complexion, he enjoys his plain-clothes role. He lives with his wife in a downtown apartment awaiting the return of his 19-year-old son, JACK, who is in the service.

His two years in China apparently gave him enough adventure for a time.

'No one,' he says with an exaggerated wave of his hand, 'should spend more than three months in China -- especially primitive China.'

"

MCC:cw

UNITY INFORMATION -

RECORDED - 21  
EX-164

62-27581

Date:

May 17, 1952

To:

Rear Admiral Joseph N. Wenger, USN  
Deputy Coordinator, USCIB  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D. C.

From:

John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject:

"JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC SECRETS," MANUSCRIPT OF  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

257027  
APPROVED  
DATE 12/20/95  
INITIALS

Hand copy c/p  
12/12/67 - was  
Classified by 10000000  
Declassify on: OADR 8/27/85

VIA T. LAYSON

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CLASSIFIED BY 10000000  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 6  
9-17-78

DECLASSIFIED BY 10000000  
9-17-78

G.I.R.-6

With reference to your memorandum of April 28, 1952, concerning the above-captioned matter, we are able to furnish but little light on the part played by Marie Stuart Kloss with respect to the manuscript. (S-1)(u)

Our files reflect that during September 1932, both the State Department and the War Department were concerned about a report that Herbert O. Yardley was going to publish another book which would contain considerable confidential information which Yardley had apparently obtained from War Department files. Consideration was being given to provisions of the United States Code which might be used to prevent such disclosures.

An article appearing in the "New York Times" under date of February 21, 1933, reflected that a manuscript of a new book by Herbert O. Yardley, author of "The American Black Chamber," had been seized on February 20, 1933, by the Department of Justice in New York City. It was stated that the manuscript, entitled "Japanese Diplomatic Secrets," dealt with the intercepting and decoding of instructions sent to delegates at the Washington Arms Conference in 1922. It was stated that a United States Marshal had called at the office of the publishing firm of George P. Brett, Jr., and requested Brett to bring the manuscript to the Federal Building. The Marshal also requested George T. Bye, Yardley's literary agent at 535 Fifth Avenue, to appear at the Federal Building. Thereafter, both Mr. Brett and Mr. Bye were taken before a Federal Grand Jury and the manuscript was impounded.

TO ADM. WENGER, AFSA

5-19-52

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

60 JUN 18 1952 (Kloss)

RJL:jof (GAS)

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

(See back) Paragraph 1 and 2 cut bottom declassified by letter dated 11-10-94

101181825

Note on page one  
at the bottom cont.  
an appropriate agency  
letter dated August  
16, 1993

91-93  
91-93

12-17-93 (M)

337-111  
DECLASSIFIED BY

10/10/97  
EDM

You will note that there is no information in the foregoing which would connect Marie Stuart Klooz with the manuscript. Marie Stuart Klooz was investigated by this Bureau in 1951 at which time she was being considered for employment under the International Development Program of the State Department. It was learned that she was born December 29, 1901, at Louisville, Kentucky. She attended Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia, from 1919 to 1923, receiving an A. B. Degree in Social Science. She also did graduate work at Sweet Briar College. Miss Lois Ballinger, secretary to the President of Sweet Briar College and who has known Miss Klooz for many years, stated that in about 1928 or 1930 Miss Klooz told her that she had been investigated together with a man for whom she had worked who had broken some codes which were used in World War I. The identity of this man was not known to Miss Ballinger. (S) U

The following information, taken from various questionnaires filled out by Miss Klooz, fails to reflect any connection between Yardley and Miss Klooz through employment during the pertinent period. Miss Klooz attended the University of Chicago in 1924 for one year. Her listed employment reflected that in 1926 and 1927 she worked for the "Evening Public Ledger" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1927 and 1928 she was employed part time by the Roosevelt Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From 1927 to 1929 she worked for the "Post Gazette" in Pittsburgh. In 1930 and 1931 she taught English at Aspinwall High School, Aspinwall, Pennsylvania. In 1934 she was a Social Investigator for the Emergency Home Relief in New York City. You will note that she has not listed any employment from 1931 to 1934. During our investigation it was reported that Miss Klooz and her mother lived in Amherst County, Virginia, near Sweet Briar College for a period of one or two years in the early 1930's and that Miss Klooz during this period was doing some studying and writing. (S) U

After 1934 she had various employments in New York City and in 1941 worked as Assistant Editor for the Inter-Ally Information Center, 610 Fifth Avenue, New York City. (S) U

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~SECRET~~

She attended Columbia University in New York City from 1936 to 1942, receiving an M. A. Degree in 1939 in Public Law. She thereafter worked for the Library of Congress, 1942-1943; Commerce Department, 1943-1945; War Department, 1945; and the State Department from 1945 to 1947. She was unemployed from 1947 to 1951 apparently doing graduate work at Columbia University. In 1951 she filed a personnel security questionnaire in connection with employment for the State Department. It is not known if she is still employed by the State Department. (S) (U)

We do not contemplate taking any further action with respect to this matter in the absence of a request from you.

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~SECRET~~



Exec AD Adm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD Inv \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst Dir \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adm Servs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crim. Inv \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Off. Cong & \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec Mgnt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tech Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

DE-205

**THE CHINESE BLACK CHAMBER: An Adventure in Espionage.** By Herbert O. Yardley. (Houghton Mifflin, \$13.95.) When the Chinese asked Herbert O. Yardley in 1938 to try his luck at cracking the codes of the invading Japanese, he was delighted. The United States Government cryptography organization he had led after World War I had been disbanded in 1928; his book about the organization, "The American Black Chamber," had enraged the Government. Yardley spent almost two years in China; during the 1940's he turned his journal into book form but never submitted it for publication. Now, 25 years after his death, we have "The Chinese Black Chamber." Yardley lived and worked in Chungking, a city of incessant noise and "intolerable stinks," the frequent target of Japanese bombs. He fraternized with Chinese officials and workers. He met Chiang Kai-shek — "a thin and rather lonesome man" — and cheated at poker (of interest because Yardley later wrote "The Education of a Poker Player," a classic). He taught Chinese students the basics of cryptography and threw in some lessons on truth drugs and sabotage. But Yardley wrote in far more detail about his own feelings. The Chinese, he believed, have a predisposition to graft and treachery, but he clearly admired many of those he met, and he was sickened by the unconcern that Chinese officials showed for the lives of their own people. All this he recorded with candor and frequent humor. One will learn little about espionage from his book, but it is an observant personal view of wartime China and a notable historical sidelight.

— Hal Goodman

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW 23

V-91

File in 62-27581  
 DEPTA JRM

APR 19 1984

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 8/27/85 BY SP7 unad/jrm

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times APR. 23  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Chicago Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_

Date

3/4/84

Page

FBI/DOJ